

# Current Awareness

using

# RSS Feeds



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### ***What are “current awareness services” and why should I use them?***

Current awareness services are tools that enable you to easily keep up to date with the professional literature in your field of interest. You know instantly when a journal is updated, when new articles have been found that pertain to your research, or your publication has been cited. Current awareness tools save you time, and are free. These services were traditionally provided through e-mail alerts, but now are often offered through RSS feeds.

### ***What are the different RSS-enabled current awareness services?***

- 1) Table of Contents (TOC) Alerts: These alerts let you know when a journal has published a new issue, by alerting your RSS Reader that there are new articles. When viewing a TOC feed, you are able to view the title of each new article in that particular journal’s table of contents.
- 2) Search Alert Services: Once you have developed an effective search strategy in a database and retrieved relevant journal articles, you can set up a Search Alert Service. This will alert you every time a new record is entered into the database that matches your search strategy. This is a great service for ongoing research that requires utmost currency. If you develop an effective search strategy in the beginning, the alert service does all the work in the meantime!
- 3) Citation Alert Services: Select a journal article and be notified every time it receives a new citation.

### ***What is an RSS Feed?***

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. RSS feeds push updates of web pages to your RSS reader so you can easily see when your subscribed web pages have been updated, without having to check each individual website and without cluttering your e-mail inbox.

### ***What is an RSS Reader?***

An RSS reader is a tool that regularly checks the feeds you have subscribed to for fresh content. If new content is found, your RSS reader will alert you; generally this is done by **bolding** the title of the feed.

Most up-to-date Internet browsers (including Internet Explorer version 7 or later) have built-in RSS readers. Accessing your feeds will be limited to the computer that you saved them on.

You can also use web-based RSS readers, such as Google Reader [[www.google.com/reader](http://www.google.com/reader)]. Web-based RSS readers are free, and your feeds can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection.

**Why should I use RSS instead of e-mail alerts? What's the difference?**

	Pro	Con
<b>E-mail alerts</b>	No need to check internet browser or online reader.	Can clutter your inbox; receive messages when it is inconvenient to check websites.
<b>Browser-based RSS readers</b>	No need to set up account or remember passwords.	Limited to the computer where your favourites are stored.
<b>Web-based RSS readers</b>	Can view feeds from any computer with an internet connection; Numerous feeds can be stored & organized.	Need to set up an account & remember password.

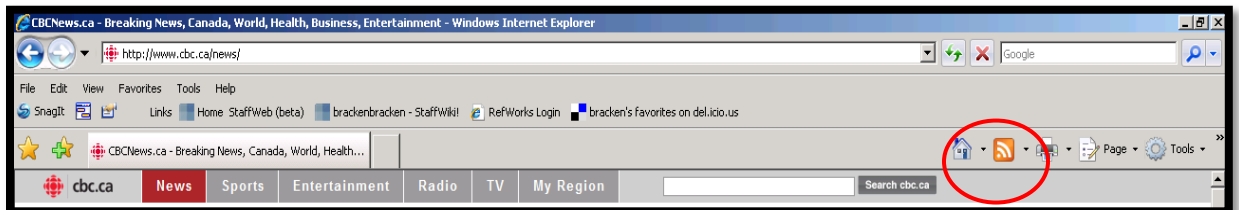
**How do I know if there is an RSS feed on a website?**

There are three main ways to identify an RSS Feed.

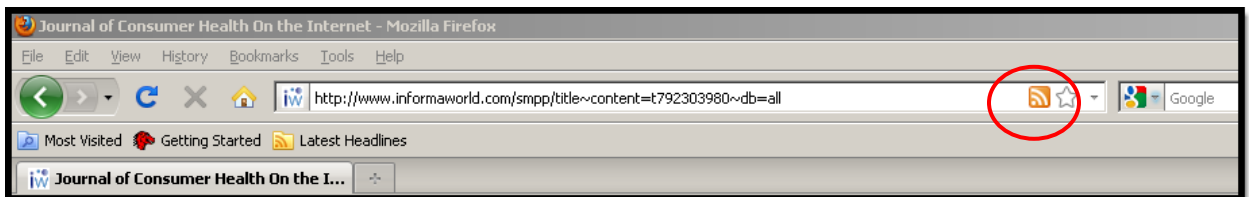
- 1) You will see one of the icons shown below on the website.



- 2) In Internet Explorer 8, the feed icon at the top of your browser window will become orange, instead of grey (see below).



- 3) In Mozilla Firefox, a feed icon can appear in the address bar (see below).



- 4) In *some* databases, you can create your own RSS feed based on your search query. (For example, ISI Web of Science and PubMed.)


## What happens when I click the feed icon?

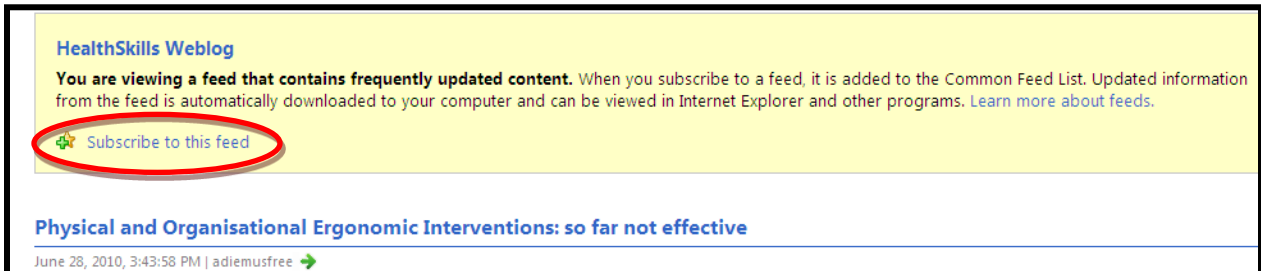
You will be taken to the page for that feed, with its URL. What this page looks like will depend on your browser. Mozilla Firefox offers more subscription options, like the ability to add the feed to a web-based reader directly from this page.

## How do I subscribe to the feed in my browser?




### Internet Explorer 8

- 1) Click on the  Subscribe to This Feed link. Add the website to the Feeds Folder.
- 2) To view your feeds, go to your Favourites folder and select the Feeds tab – Feeds are bolded when there are updated items.

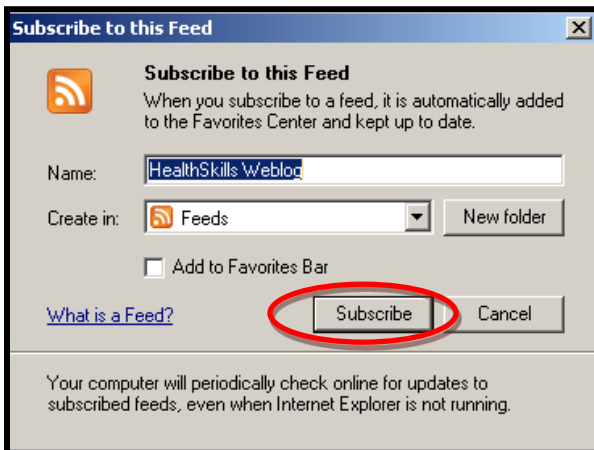


**HealthSkills Weblog**  
You are viewing a feed that contains frequently updated content. When you subscribe to a feed, it is added to the Common Feed List. Updated information from the feed is automatically downloaded to your computer and can be viewed in Internet Explorer and other programs. [Learn more about feeds.](#)


 [Subscribe to this feed](#)

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**Physical and Organisational Ergonomic Interventions: so far not effective**  
June 28, 2010, 3:43:58 PM | [adiemusfree](#) →



**Subscribe to this Feed**

 **Subscribe to this Feed**  
When you subscribe to a feed, it is automatically added to the Favorites Center and kept up to date.

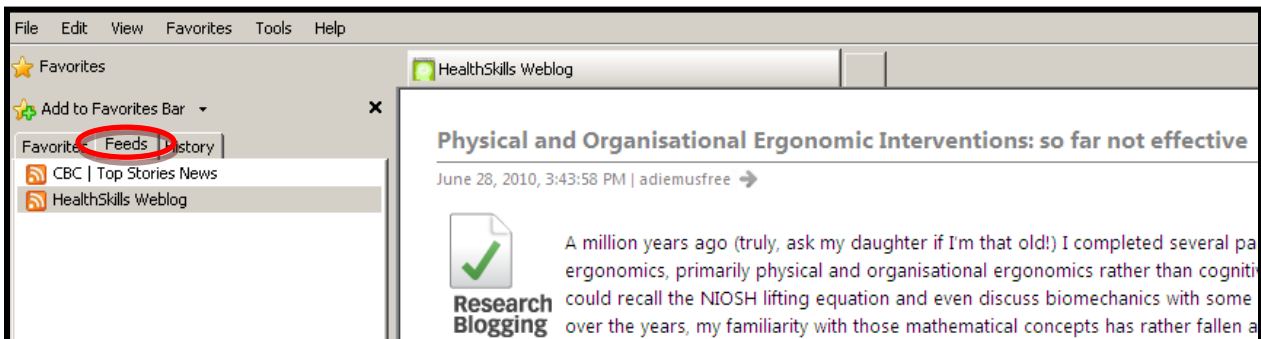
Name:

Create in:  Feeds

Add to Favorites Bar


[What is a Feed?](#)

Your computer will periodically check online for updates to subscribed feeds, even when Internet Explorer is not running.





File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

★ Favorites

 Add to Favorites Bar


**Feeds** History

-  CBC | Top Stories News
-  **HealthSkills Weblog**

HealthSkills Weblog

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**Physical and Organisational Ergonomic Interventions: so far not effective**  
June 28, 2010, 3:43:58 PM | [adiemusfree](#) →

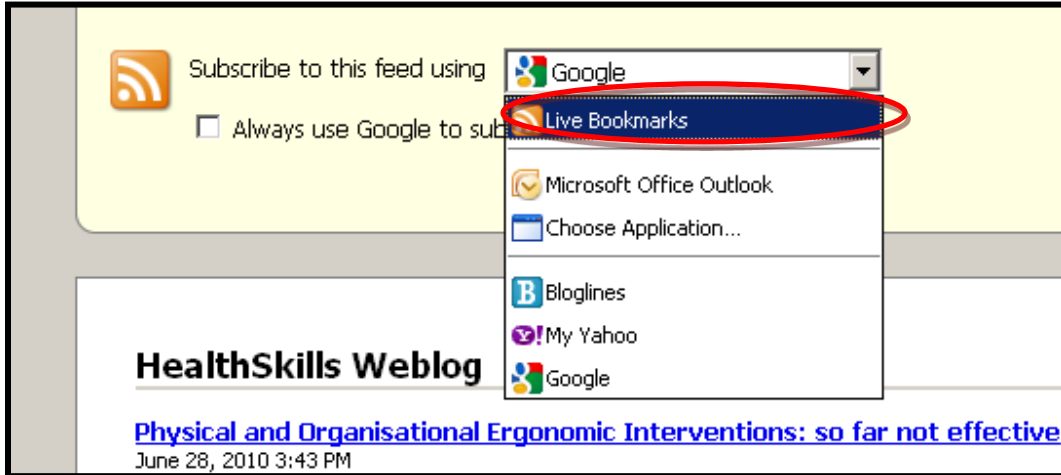
 **Research Blogging**

A million years ago (truly, ask my daughter if I'm that old!) I completed several papers on ergonomics, primarily physical and organisational ergonomics rather than cognitive ergonomics. I could recall the NIOSH lifting equation and even discuss biomechanics with some colleagues. Over the years, my familiarity with those mathematical concepts has rather fallen a

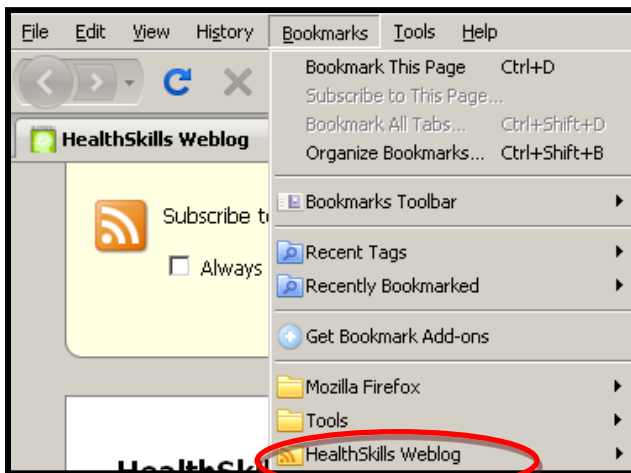


## Mozilla Firefox

- 1) In Firefox, you can select where you save your feeds; to save in your browser, select Live Bookmarks, then select Subscribe Now.
- 2) You can choose to save your feeds in your Bookmarks Menu or the Bookmarks Toolbar.



### Bookmarks Menu:



### **Bookmarks Menu vs. Bookmarks Toolbar:**

The difference is where you view your feeds.

**Bookmarks Menu** saves your feeds in your Bookmarks dropdown menu.

**Bookmarks Toolbar** saves your feeds in your browser directly below the URL address bar.

### Bookmarks Toolbar:



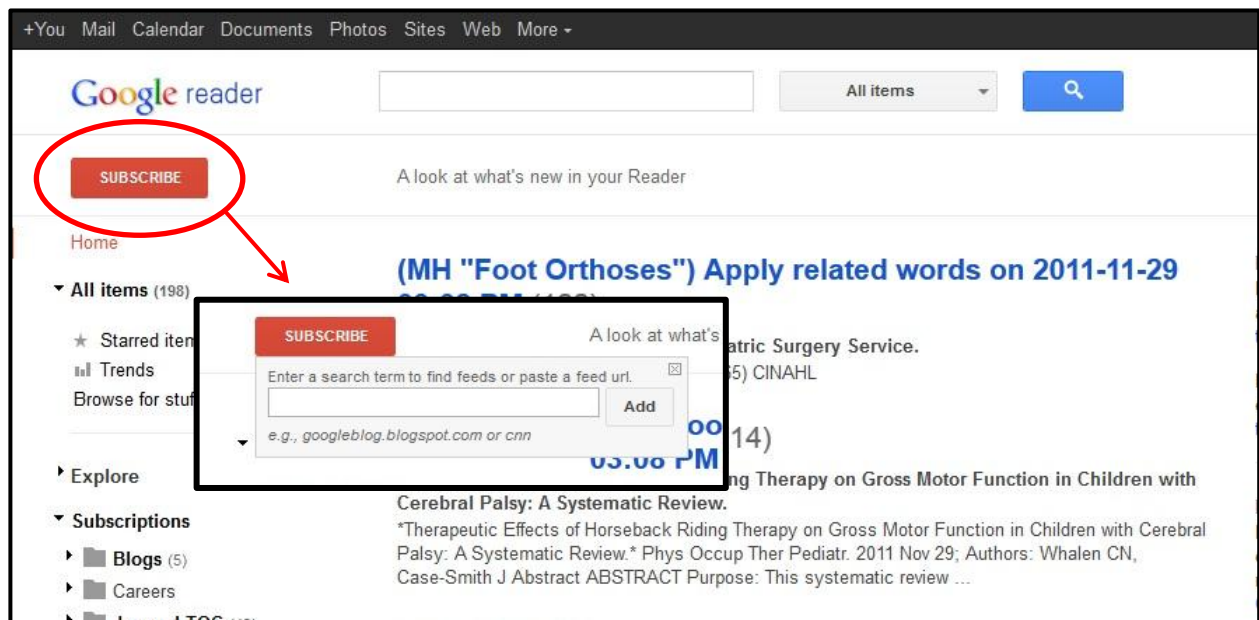
## How do I subscribe to the feed in my web-based RSS reader?

If you use Mozilla Firefox, you can add the feeds directly from the feed page to a web-based reader like Google Reader by selecting that option from the drop-down menu (see screenshot on previous page).

Or, you can subscribe to feeds through your web-based RSS reader page.

### In Google Reader:

- 1) If you do not have a Google account, set one up (free). Log in to your account.
- 2) Click the "SUBSCRIBE" button. An input box will appear.



- 3) If you have the URL for the RSS feed (from the address bar on the feed page), copy and paste it into the box and click "Add".

If you do not have the URL for the RSS feed, you can search for it in this box and Google will try to find it for you. For example, this is the first result of a search for "NEJM":

### Feeds matching "NEJM"

[« Return to feed discovery](#)

48,588 subscribers	<a href="#">The New England Journal of Medicine: Research &amp; Review Articles on ...</a> The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) is a weekly general medical journal that publishes new medical research findings, review articles, and editorial ... <a href="http://content.nejm.org/rss/current.xml">http://content.nejm.org/rss/current.xml</a> - 28.5 posts per week
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[+ Subscribe](#)

## How do I set up RSS Table of Contents Alerts?

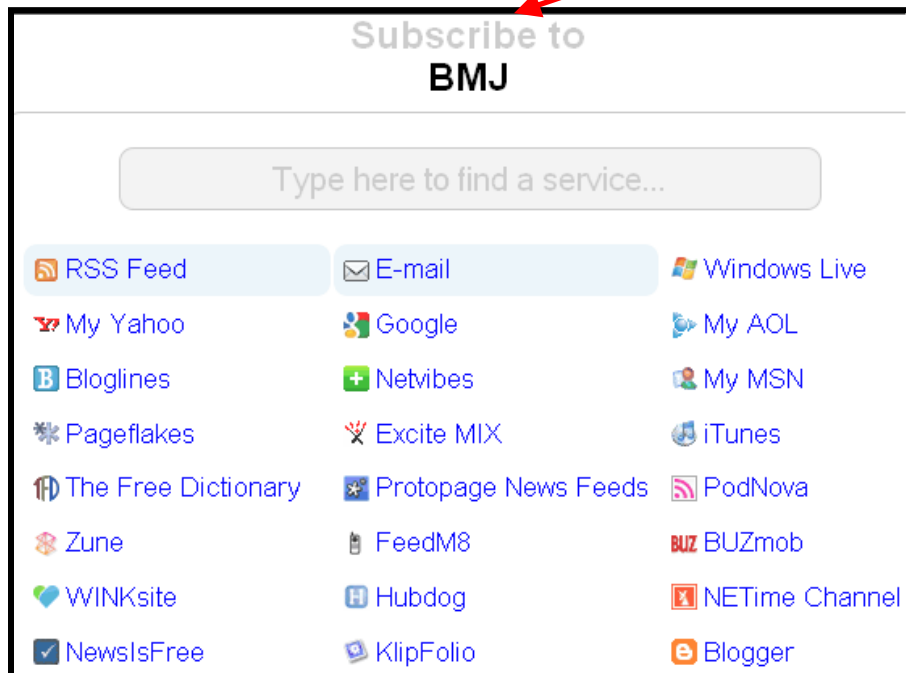
From a journal's website:

Visit the journal's website (you can find it via Google). If there is a feed, you can subscribe by clicking the RSS or XML icon (as previously described, through your browser or web-based reader).

In ticTOCs Journal Table of Content Service [www.tictocs.ac.uk]:

ticTOCs is a convenient site for quickly obtaining journals' RSS feeds. It lists 13,605 scholarly journals' Table of Contents, from 632 publishers.

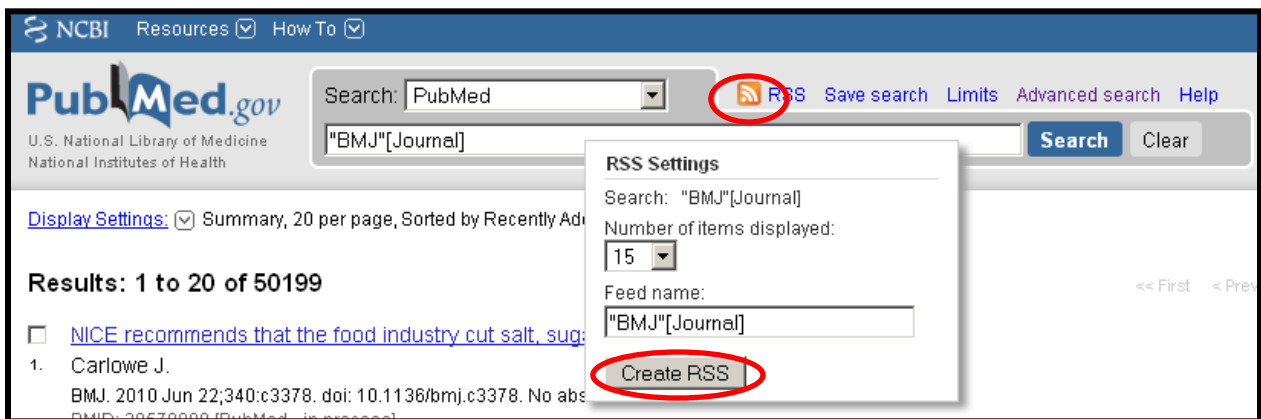
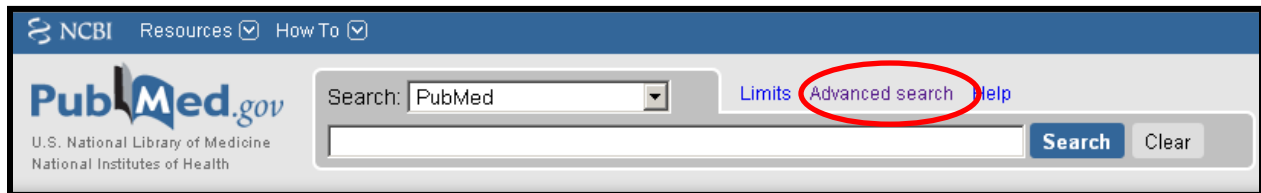
- 1) Search for the title of the journal in the search box in the left panel. Click Go.
- 2) Your results will appear as a list of titles in the left panel, which you can click to view.
- 3) When you have selected a journal of interest, click the orange RSS icon that appears in the middle panel. You can also click "Export feed to..." and follow the instructions.
- 4) Subscribe to the feed using your browser-based or web-based RSS reader.



**Tip:**  
Advanced users can subscribe through many services, including iTunes and Microsoft Outlook.

In PubMed:

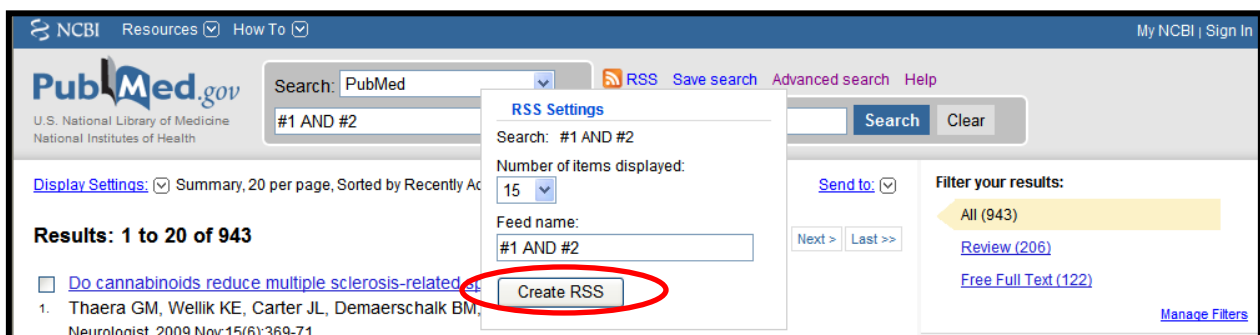
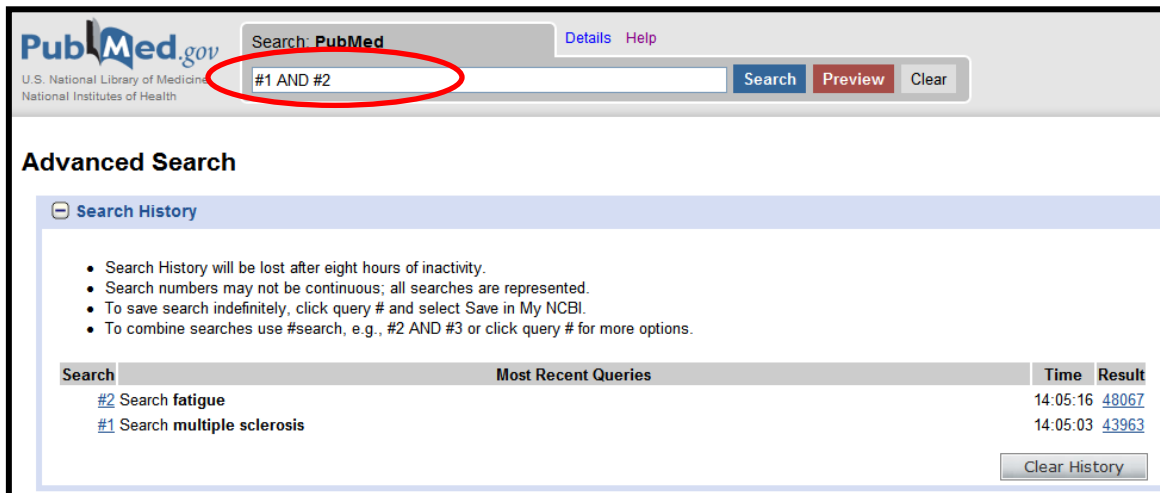
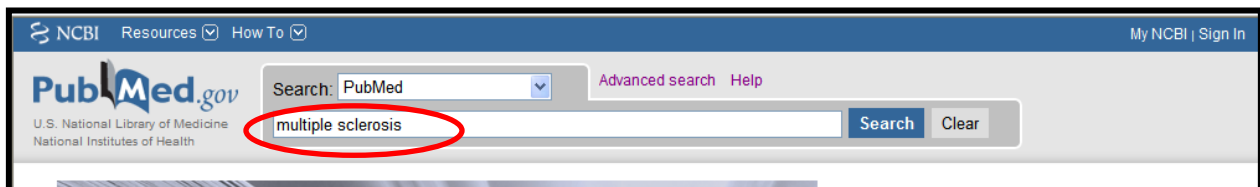
- 1) From the PubMed home page, select the "Advanced search" tab.
- 2) Enter the name of the journal in the Search Builder Box, and select Journal from the drop-down menu. Click Add to Search Box.
- 3) Now that your query is in the Search Box, click Search and you will return to the main page.
- 4) Click the RSS icon to open the options box. Choose the number of citations to display and name your feed.
- 5) Click "Create RSS". An orange XML icon will appear in the same box. Click it to go to the feed page. Subscribe to the feed using your browser-based or web-based RSS reader.



## How do I set up RSS Search Alerts?

### In PubMed:

- 1) Run your search in PubMed. For example, enter *multiple sclerosis* in the search box. Click on Search.
- 2) Clear the search box. Enter *fatigue*. Go to the Advanced Search tab. Clear the search box and combine the sets using AND as shown below. Click on Search.
- 3) Click on the orange RSS icon to open up the options box. Choose the number of citations to display and name your feed.
- 4) Click "Create RSS". An orange XML icon will appear in the same box. Click it to go to the feed page. Subscribe to the feed using your browser-based or web-based RSS reader.



## Why would I want to set up a Citation Alert Service?

If you are interested in following the referencing of a particular article, this is a handy current awareness tool. Every time the article you are tracking is cited, an update is pushed to your RSS reader. Do you ever look in the references of a journal article to find articles related to your topic? Setting up a Citation Alert Service is an easy way to find topically similar articles that have been recently published.

## How do I set up a Citation Alert Service?

ISI Web of Science:

- 1) Create an ISI Account by clicking on the “Sign In” link, then “Register”.
- 2) Search for the journal article you are interested in – Either by Keyword, Author or Journal Title.
- 3) View your results. Select the article you want to track by clicking on the title.
- 4) On the right-hand side of the screen, click on the “Create Citation Alert” button.

The screenshot displays the ISI Web of Science interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: 'All Databases', 'Select a Database', 'Web of Science', and 'Additional Resources'. Below these are search options: 'Search', 'Author Finder', 'Cited Reference Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History'. The main heading is 'Web of Science SM'. A navigation bar includes '<< Back to results list', 'Record 1 of 1', and 'Record from Web of Science SM'. A toolbar contains 'Get It! Queen's', 'Holdings', 'Go', a checkmark icon, a printer icon, an email icon, and 'Save to:' followed by buttons for 'EndNote Web', 'EndNote', 'RefWorks', 'ResearcherID', and 'more options'. The article title is 'Clinicians, librarians and patient safety: opportunities for partnership'. The author is 'Zipperer, L (Zipperer, L)'. The source is 'QUALITY & SAFETY IN HEALTH CARE Volume: 13 Issue: 3 Pages: 218-222 DOI: 10.1136/qshc.2002.003103 Published: JUN 2004'. It shows 'Times Cited: 4 (from Web of Science)' and 'Cited References: 32 [view related records] Citation Map'. The abstract discusses how librarians can improve patient safety. The document type is 'Article', language is 'English', and keywords include 'EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE; CARE'. The reprint address is 'Zipperer, L (reprint author), Zipperer Project Management, 1002 Washington St 3E, Evanston, IL 60202 USA'. The address is '1. Zipperer Project Management, Evanston, IL 60202 USA'. The email address is 'lorri@zpm1.com'. On the right side, there is a 'Times Cited: 4' section listing four citing articles. At the bottom of this section, there is a button labeled 'Create Citation Alert' which is highlighted with a red box.

- 5) To create the RSS Feed, click on the XML icon, and subscribe as previously described.